

# FIFTH STEP QUICKSTART™

APPLICATION LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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fifth  
STEP™

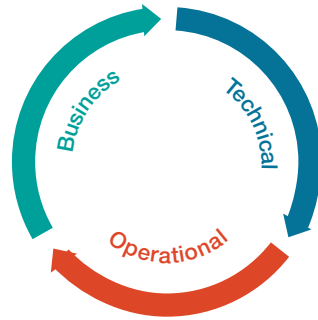
The application landscape of a company has typically developed over many years. The environment has become more complex as applications have been added and been enhanced to provide additional business functionality. As a general rule, the older the application is, the greater the operational risk, and cost of support.

Modern businesses need to be agile; they have an expectation that their IT department is going to be able to support them in an efficient and cost-effective way. Over time through organic growth, company acquisition, and the constant changes made to the application landscape, this will impact the ability for IT to support the business in a way that they need. This often leads to 'agility drag' and an increase in operational costs.

How aligned is your IT department with the business requirements, and how well are your business systems delivering the functionality required? The following IT issues are some of the common symptoms:

- Poor access to data for business opportunity analysis
- Inadequate core functionality resulting in shadow IT solutions
- Operational run cost disproportionate to the business benefit
- Application changes take too long to implement
- Duplicate data/functionality leading to integrity problems
- Is the software/database under a current support contract
- Are there opportunities for streamlining business processes, that cannot be implemented due to application constraints
- Is the application landscape resilience/support risk level unsatisfactory

The success of the application landscape and IT support delivery function can be evaluated by the level of success achieved over three distinct areas:-



## Business

- How well does the existing portfolio of systems support the business needs?
- Are there parts of the systems landscape that are not used or no longer functioning correctly?
- Does the business understand the systems available to them and the functions and features of each?
- How well do the business understand their data? What tools do they have to access the data?
- Are there duplicate data extraction and analysis functions occurring across multiple departments?
- Are all components of the application landscape under a current support contract.
- What training requirements are needed?
- Is the business process in line with the application landscape?
- Where the business have additional system requirements, these could be documented and recommendations made as to where these should be incorporated into the existing application landscape.

## Technical

- Is the hardware at end of life?
- Is the system performance adequate? Or is the overnight batch window impacting the online system availability?
- Does the operating system need to be patched or upgraded, either to apply security patches or to provide on-going vendor support?
- Is there a constraint on the infrastructure caused by the application software running on later operating systems/versions?
- Are there databases that need to be upgraded to maintain vendor support?
- Is there budget or resources to bring the landscape to a supported level?
- Is there an increase in system failures?

- What level of third party vendor support is currently in place for the applications and are they running on a currently supported level?
- Is there budget or resources to bring the landscape to a supported level?
- Are the systems difficult to maintain and is there the correct level of documentation on the systems?
- Is there an application enhancement backlog, with potential for regulatory changes that are waiting to be applied?
- Is there an application strategy or 3-5 year plan in place with timeline deliverables?
- Are there any regulatory compliance issues, or audit points?

## Operational

- What is the quality and knowledge of support staff, and is the resourcing model adequate to support the application landscape?
- Is there a software development or change control process in place and what application development standards are in force?
- Are there infrastructure operational processes in place, e.g. backups?
- Is there a current IT DR Plan, what level of testing is completed annually and whether the system's recovery schedule has been agreed with the business?

## Application Landscape Solutions



Reduce landscape complexity



Reduce IT operational risks



Enhance system's availability and performance

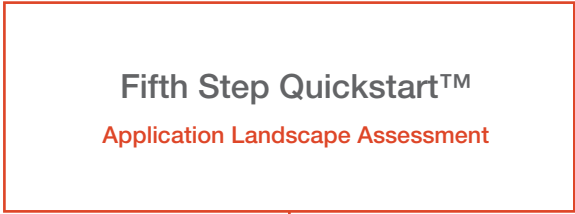


Faster delivery of application changes



Reduce IT infrastructure cost/budget

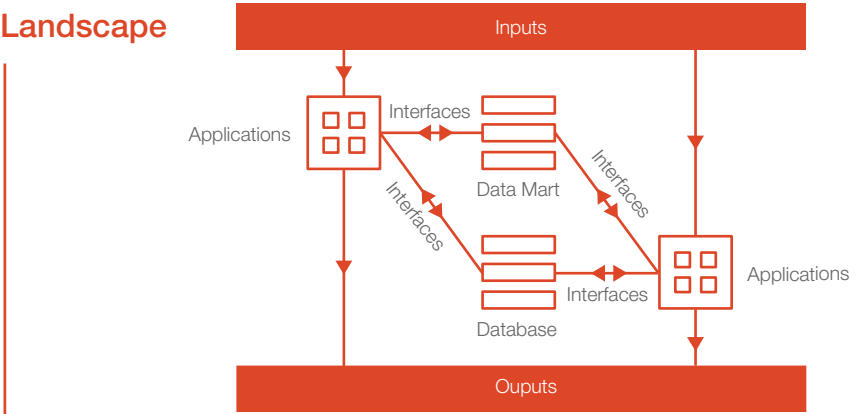
## Delivery



## Delivery Report



## Landscape



### Business

- Application functionality matched to the business process
- Knowledge & Training
- Data Understanding & Access

### Technical

- Infrastructure Inventory & Version Support Analysis
- Risk Analysis
- Landscape Constraints & Issues

### Operational

- Procedure Review
- Risk Analysis
- Effectiveness & Constraints
- DR Assessment
- Baseline Budget Analysis

# FIFTH STEP QUICKSTART™

## APPLICATION LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT - SOLUTION

At Fifth Step, we have experience of helping IT departments better serve the business through the improvement of their application landscape. Our Application Landscape Assessment covers the three areas that our experience has identified as being key: Business Review, Technical Review and Operational Review. A typical review will take 5 days and can be scaled to match the size and the complexity of your application landscape - the review report will provide information vital to understanding and improving your application landscape.

The assessment would include strategy options for management consideration on the ongoing support of your application landscape. It would include a high level landscape schematic covering inputs/outputs, applications, interfaces, databases and data stores. The review will highlight the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

If requested Fifth Step can also produce a Technical Infrastructure Roadmap, as part of this work.

The Fifth Step Quickstart™ Assessment provides the information on which to base strategic decisions that could lead to a:

- Reduction in the application landscape complexity
- Reduction in IT operational risk
- Improvement in system availability & performance
- Enable the delivery of application changes faster
- Reduction in the IT baseline infrastructure cost/budget

Fifth Step can help you gain a greater understanding of your applications and data and if requested, work with you and your IT team on the next phase of any work.

If you would like to learn more about the Fifth Step Quickstart™ Application Landscape Assessment solution please contact us - [enquires@fifthstep.com](mailto:enquires@fifthstep.com)



### **London Office**

Fifth Step Limited,  
33 Queen Street,  
London EC4R 1BR

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7193 1966

Email: [enquiries@fifthstep.com](mailto:enquiries@fifthstep.com)

### **US Office**

Fifth Step Inc.,  
1745 Broadway New York,  
NY 10019

Telephone: +1 (646) 583-0085

Email: [enquiries@fifthstep.com](mailto:enquiries@fifthstep.com)

### **Bermuda Office**

Fifth Step Bermuda,  
Rosebank Building,  
12 Bermudiana Road,  
Hamilton HM11

Telephone: +1 (441) 295 3806 x206

Email: [enquiries@fifthstep.com](mailto:enquiries@fifthstep.com)

[www.fifthstep.com](http://www.fifthstep.com)

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